He Does Both Good and Bad Deeds

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Fataawa Islamiyyah Vol. 7

Pgs. 269-270

Question:

A young man performs all of his religous duties, starting off with the 5 pillars of Islam. At the same time though, he also perpetrates some sins; what is the Islamic ruling regarding a person who does both good and bad deeds?

Answer:

Until the sun rises from the west, the door of repentance is open. Every disbeliever and sinner, then should sincerely repent to Allah Almighty; but what is sincere repentance? To sincerely repent, you:

1) Feel remorse for past sins.
2) Refrain from those sins, fearing Allah Almighty and glorifying Him.
3) Sincerely resolve not to return to those sins. Whenever a Muslim repents in this fashion, Allah Almighty erases for him previous sins, as He said:

"And all of you beg Allah to forgive you all, O believers, that you may be successful." {Surah An-Nur 24:31}

And:

"And verily, I am indeed Forgiving to him who repents, believes and does righteous good deeds, and then remains constant in doing them." { Surah Ta Ha 20:82}

The Prophet (alayhee salatul wasalaam) said:

"Islam removes what comes before it, and repentance removes what comes before it." {Sahih Muslim Hadith No. 121}

If he has sinned against another person, he must either return to them their rightful property or seek their pardon, for the Messenger of Allah (alayhee salatul wasalaam) said:

"Whoever has wronged his brother should seek his pardon today, before the time comes when there will be neither Dinar nor Dirham; If the transgressor has good deeds, the person he wronged will take from him according to the wrong done to him. If the trangressor doesn't have good deeds, he will take sins from the person he wronged, and he will bear the responsibility of those sins.

{Sahih Bukhari No. 2449}

There are many other verses of the Qur'an and sayings of the Prophet (alayhee salatul wasalaam) that give a similar meaning.

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